

**GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH
AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

Dr. Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

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Board Minutes

APRIL 17, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Reba Dykes, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Douglas Lundblad, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway, Patricia Varanese

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Martin Fay, Gregory O'Brien, Steven Oluic

STAFF PRESENT: Christine Lakomiak, Michelle Maneage, Teresa Slater

GUESTS: Linda Miller (Community Member), Kathy Franz (Geauga League of Women Voters), Sal Rini, Ray Minotas, Andrew Swansiger (Perspectus), ND Howard (Observer), Michelle Kincaid (Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance), Melanie Blasko, Charles Tong (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Jonathan Tiber (Geauga County Township Association/Claridon Trustee), Andrea Gutka (WomenSafe), Mary Wynne Peaspanen (Signature Health), Kristine Frankenberry (NAMI Geauga), Samantha Jackson (Ravenwood Health), Michelle Bertman (Catholic Charities)

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Holden called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Mr. Petruziello called the roll for attendance purposes and the following Board members were present at that time: Reba Dykes, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Douglas Lundblad, Michael Petruziello and Patricia Varanese. Mary Ruth Shumway arrived at 6:05 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM MARCH 20, 2024

Dr. Lesyk moved to waive the reading of the Minutes and to approve the Minutes. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. **Voice Vote: Ayes-7; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Oluic welcomed everyone then turned the meeting over to Director Lakomiak.

IV. TLC EXPANSION UPDATE BY PERSPECTUS

The team from Perspectus provided a presentation with an overview of the renovations, enhancements, additions that will be made to the Transitional Living Center.

The following was highlighted:

- It is the goal that residents will not be displaced during this process.
- OhioMHAS is considering making crisis services a Medicaid eligible program.
- There will be a few additional parking spots.
- The enhancements and renovations will provide a beautiful space for people to heal, receive services, and become independent.
- Residents will have access to Wi-Fi, along with a dedicated laptop and/or computer stations to use.
- The current security system will either be upgraded or a new system will be installed.
- The project engineers will be attending the bi-weekly meetings with Board and Ravenwood staff.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lakomiak's report included the following:

SFY2025 Agency Requests for Proposals: Staff has been reviewing and obtaining additional information in regard to the proposals submitted by agencies. Staff will provide funding recommendations at the May meeting for Board members to vote on. At the Agency Relations meeting on April 29th, staff will be reviewing the duties of boards to have a community-based system of care and highlighted the services boards are mandated to provide.

Suicide/Overdose Statistics: Agency Relations will review these statistics in depth and report the findings to the Board. It was suggested that Agency Relations could focus on reviewing specific programs throughout the year. The Suicide Prevention Coalition meets monthly and the Opiate Hub meets quarterly. It was noted that the average age of those completing suicide is increasing. This is consistent with what is happening throughout Ohio. In the last four years, 97 deaths in the county were attributed to suicides/overdoses. The community is working on this through the MAT program and other services to reach whoever we can. We are helping and that is why it is so important to provide additional services when needed. Providers have been asked what trends they are experiencing: Increases in medication and complexity, higher rates of relapse and drop outs, the use of alcohol has increased, and agencies are seeing drugs shifting away from opiates more toward stimulants and alcohol. Legislation was recently passed requiring emergency rooms to report on individuals who have survived an overdose, not just deaths from an overdose. Hopefully we will be able to reach out and assist those individuals.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Agency Relations

Ms. Johnson reported the committee is scheduled to meet on April 29th. She has met with Director Lakomiak to chart a course of action regarding agency RFPs and allocations for SFY2025.

b. Finance

Mr. Petruziello reported there was no quorum at the April 3rd meeting. Another meeting will be scheduled.

c. Planning and Policies

There was no report.

d. Capital Planning

Ms. Dykes reported that the committee has been meeting with the team from Perspectus about the addition/renovations at the Transitional Living Center.

VII. BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution 24-04-1 Landlord Incentive Program Allocation

The Board was awarded \$37,000.00 to incentivize landlords to rent to individuals with criminal records and to secure housing for individuals leaving the state hospital. Staff will be working with Geauga Metropolitan Housing Authority to qualify individuals for this program. Funds can be used for such expenses as security deposits, small repairs, HUB inspection updates. Ms. Shumway moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Voice Vote: Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

b. Financial Reports

Director Lakomiak read the overview of the March Financial Reports submitted by Mr. Mausser.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers' golf outing is on June 24th at Quail Hollow Country Club. WomenSafe's golf outing is on July 22nd at Fowler's Mill Golf Course.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jonathan Tiber – Geauga County Township Association: Representatives from Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers and WomenSafe have spoken at meetings in the past and were very well received. This is a great avenue to provide information to the community about what the agencies and Board does. Mr. Petruziello asked if the Board can join the Township Association.

Kristine Frankenberry - NAMI Geauga: The agency continues to experience staff transition. They decided to combine NAMI Geauga's walk with the Greater Cleveland NAMI walk. This will allow her to focus on continuing relationships, secure additional funding, and develop programs. All sponsorship money can be designated directly for Geauga.

Samantha Jackson – Ravenwood Health: Murray's Clubhouse Open House is on May 16th from 12-5.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Teresa Slater
Administrative/Office Manager

James Lee Holden
Acting Chairman of the Board

Michael Petruziello
Acting Secretary of the Board